

# Kansas Memory



## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

This is a collection of letters written by Wesley Tally and Elsie Hasenbank in the mid-1930s. During this time, Wesley and Elsie were dating and the letters tell about their developing relationship. In 1933 and 1934, Wesley was a teacher in Council Grove, Kansas, and worked part time for the telephone company. Elsie worked as a housekeeper and au pair for several families in Emporia, Kansas. Elsie also spent some time in Fort Riley and Alma. In March 1935, they wrote about the dust storms and how they impacted their lives. That same year Wesley had difficulties finding a job and he joined the Civilian Conservation Corp. He was sent to Camp Burns Lake at Cass Lake, Minnesota, where he served in the 1765 Company working in the forests of northern Minnesota. Wesley describes the work he performed in the camp and his leisure activities. Elsie wrote about her work, the weather, her family and friends, and her leisure activities. After leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps in April 1936, Wesley enrolled in the Davey Tree Expert Co. He left the tree service training before finishing the course and returned to Kansas. The last few letters are about their impending marriage and moving to Kansas City, Kansas, to live. A searchable transcription is available by clicking 'Text Version' below.

Creator: Tally, Wesley, 1909-1977

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about eight inches of solid rock.  
Yesterday we built about a half  
mile of new lin for some people  
that were having a phone put in.

I did you have a good time Sunday?  
I was glad to see you again and  
I will get down again this week  
end if I can.

I'll let you have lots over  
here to clean up since the wind  
yesterday. It surely blew  
hard up here and I suppose  
it did the same there.  
Well as I said at first  
I haven't any news to tell  
so will sign off.

Write when you can

as ever,  
Wesley

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## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

H

1628 West St.  
Emporia, Kansas  
Spring March 21, 1935

Dear Wesley,

The dust is awful. I have lived in Kansas all my life, which is a mighty long time and had never seen such a dust storm before as we had yesterday and are having to-day. It was so bad yesterday that trains and traffic was held over for hours. The people who came in from the country could not go home because they couldn't see ahead of them. We could not see the houses across the street for awhile. The school dismissed at noon yesterday. The dust is so bad in the house, I don't think I shall ever get it all out.

I got your letter and I was

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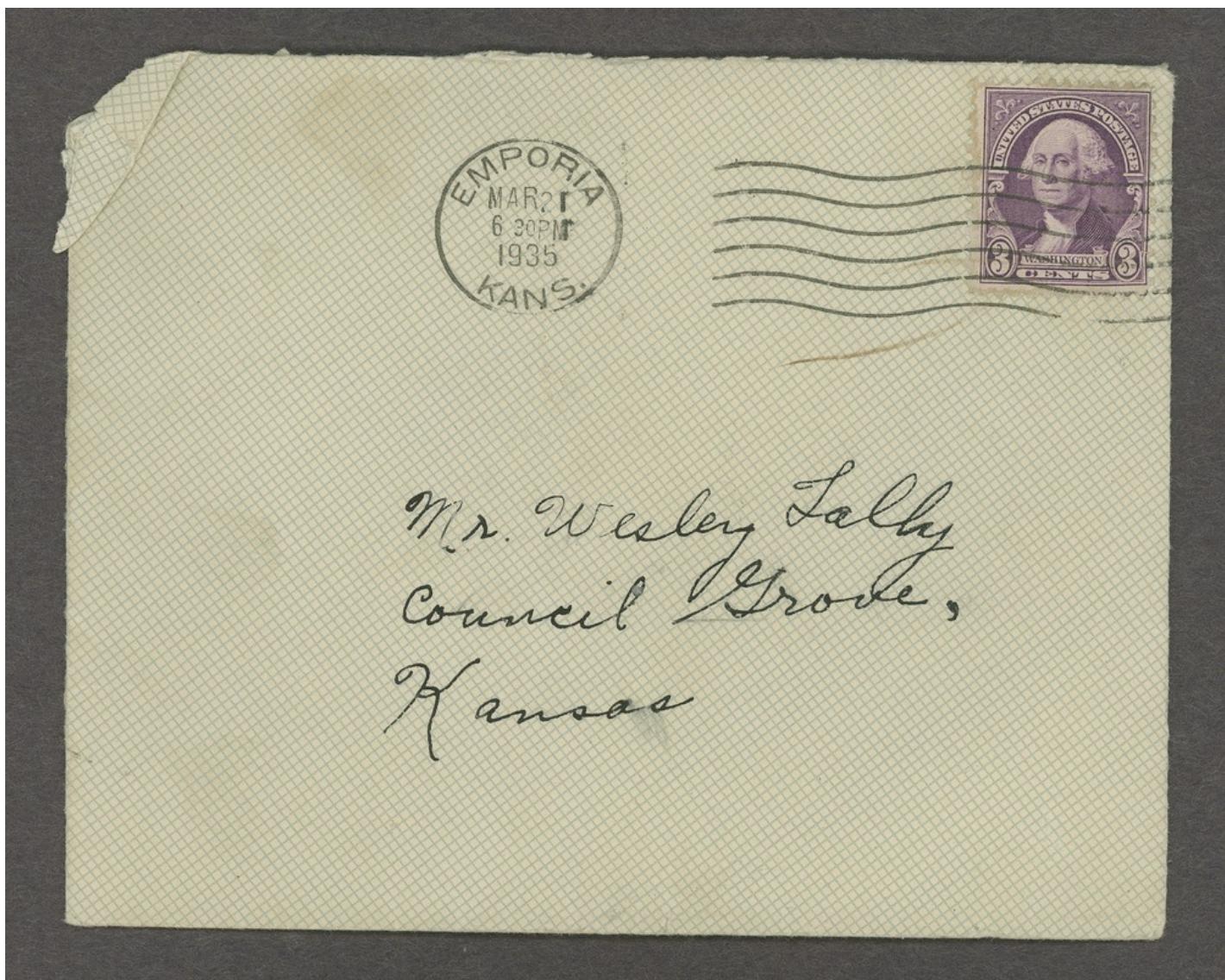
## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

to glad  
now and that  
you got a job, but  
I guess it is a rather  
hard job. I got a letter from Goro  
and her room mate has the said three  
measles too. So Goro and Alvin are in  
both in school, stole away in her close in  
grade, two of them have fix. She said there  
jail now. I certainly wish it would rain soon  
as well. It probably will rain tomorrow, because I think  
it will be off to-morrow afternoon at 4:58 pm.  
I will go to my cousin's at Emporia you know if so if you could find me there  
to stay with them while my cousin goes to Ladies aid  
by the afternoon. I will have very long the dust until the Postman  
I don't know anything to write about except the dirt and stop for this time. I will be  
in just as tired as I am. It will have  
will come to as I guess I will have  
glad if you can come down this week end.

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Mr. Wesley Tally  
Council Grove,  
Kansas

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## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

3-28-35-

Dear Elsie,

Just a few lines. I am still  
alive after the dust storm and  
I think it will be for some time  
now that the dust has quit blowing.

Sorry I didn't get down last  
Sunday to see you. I hope you  
weren't disappointed too much.  
I intended to come but Bill's car  
was full so I stayed at home like  
a good little boy.

Are you going to have to work  
Friday night? I am going to try  
to come down then to see you.  
Bill is coming down to a dance  
with college and I will come too,  
~~if I don't get down Friday night~~

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## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

am sure d will be down Sunday.  
Remember that if I don't get down  
when I want to it am thinking of  
you just the same.

I am going to put some new  
shingles on the house to day. I  
am after them now and will  
be back at ~~the~~ same time.

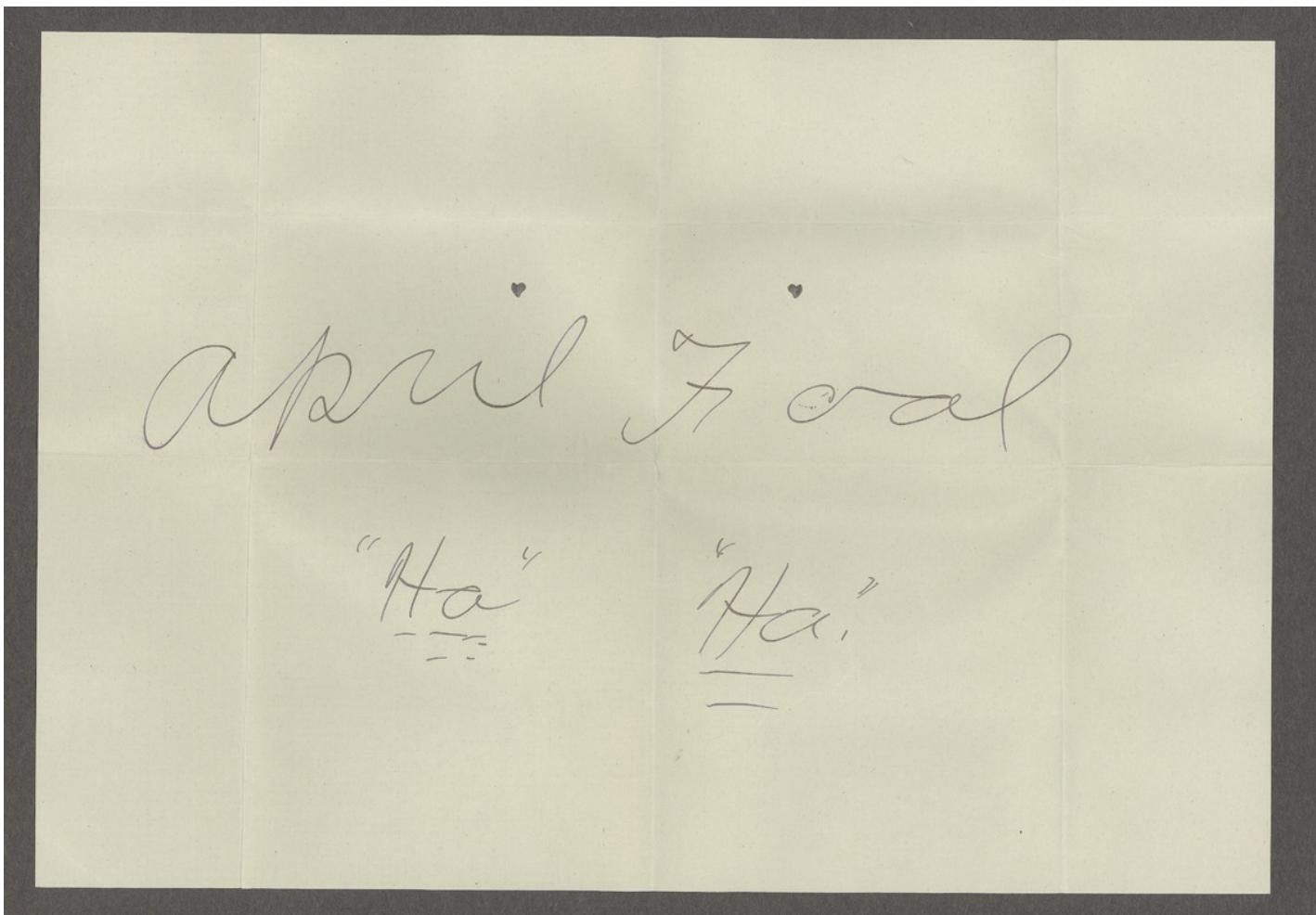
Sane  
Wesley

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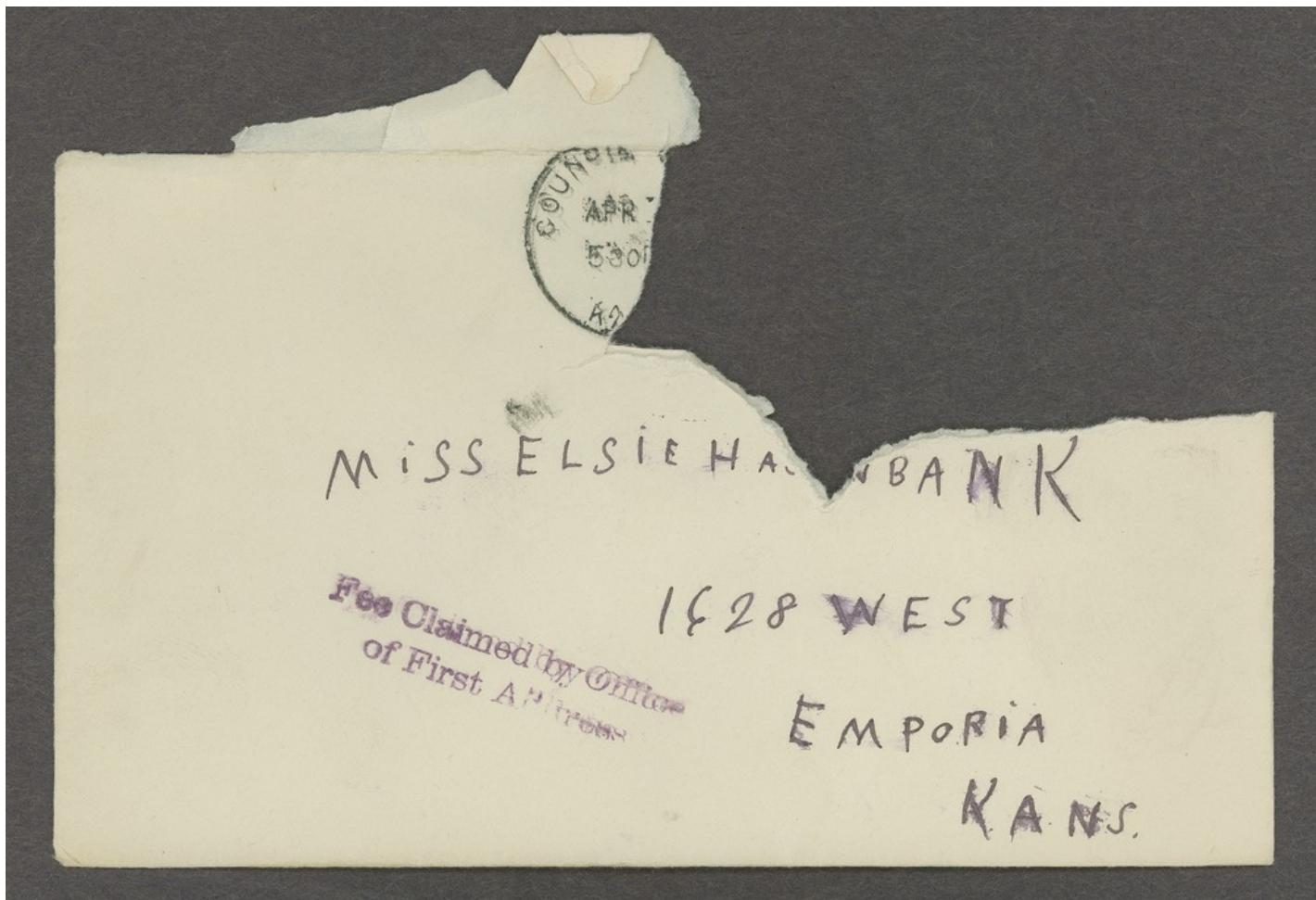


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# Kansas Memory



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Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

H

1628 West St.  
Emporia, Kansas  
April 2, 1935

dear Wesley,

Spring certainly has turned into winter again. I wish it would rain soon. I got a letter from Dad Monday and he said he hoped it wouldn't freeze, because the peaches, pears, cherries, plums and apple trees were blooming beautifully.

Well, I was only April fooled once yesterday and that was about 8:30 P.M. when I got a special delivery letter and I was surprised to find out what it contained. I think you already know so I won't bother telling you. Ha! Ha!

The weather was so cold and cloudy Sunday that I didn't get to go home. I guess my mother

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is getting better. Dad said she seemed to have a sore throat and she thought she was taking cold Sunday. I went to church and Sunday school in the forenoon. and at 4:00 P.M. I went to a band concert at the college. And the evening was spent quietly at home. They brought Jack Jr. home early so he could go to bed early.

I am fixing some candied orange peel. If you were here I might let you eat some of it, but since you aren't I won't let you eat any of it, ~~just~~ though you could. No!

I am not certain as to which day I will have my afternoon off this week, but I guess I will go over to Mrs. Allen's and help her cook supper for the bunch so she can get a permanent wave in the afternoon. She doesn't have enough time between lunch and dinner otherwise.

Well, Mrs. Allen just called me and told me that Alvin has the measles. That makes the third time he has had measles, so I wouldn't be surprised if I took them too.

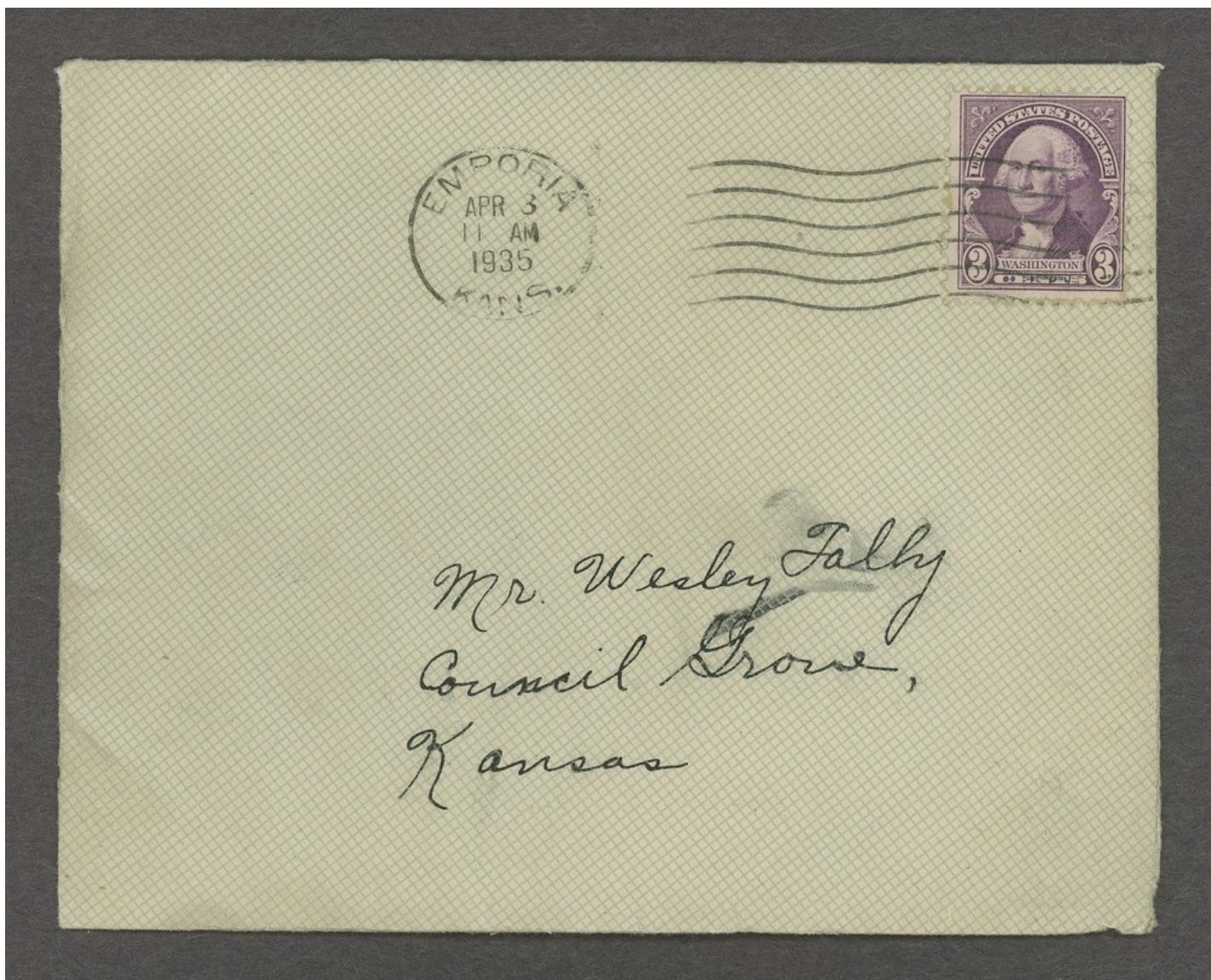
Wed. A.M. I shall try to finish this letter now and mail it. I didn't get to mail it yesterday. I don't know any more to write, so I shall have to get my cleaning done. I hope you are O.K. and don't have the measles.

Your friend,  
Elsie

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H

Alma, Kansas  
April 8, 1935

Dear Wesley,

The meanness has really broken out of me. I have plenty of measles. I broke out Saturday night and Uncle Wills and my folks came up and got me home Sunday night. It was late when they came for me so it was after midnight when I got home, but I am feeling O.K. so I guess the trip didn't hurt me. My face is really broken out, as I even look more homely than I usually do.

I will probably go back to Emporia sometime next week. I guess Alvin went back to school to-day.

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The Dr. opened Mr. Gregory's throat and he was able to talk fairly good Sunday, when I left Mrs. Gregory said she thought she would try to get along without help until I could come back. They said it would be awful lonesome with out me there. Jack Jr. was hoping I would hurry and come back.

Well, I don't know anything to write so I guess I will close. I hope you don't get the measles and we can see each other again soon.

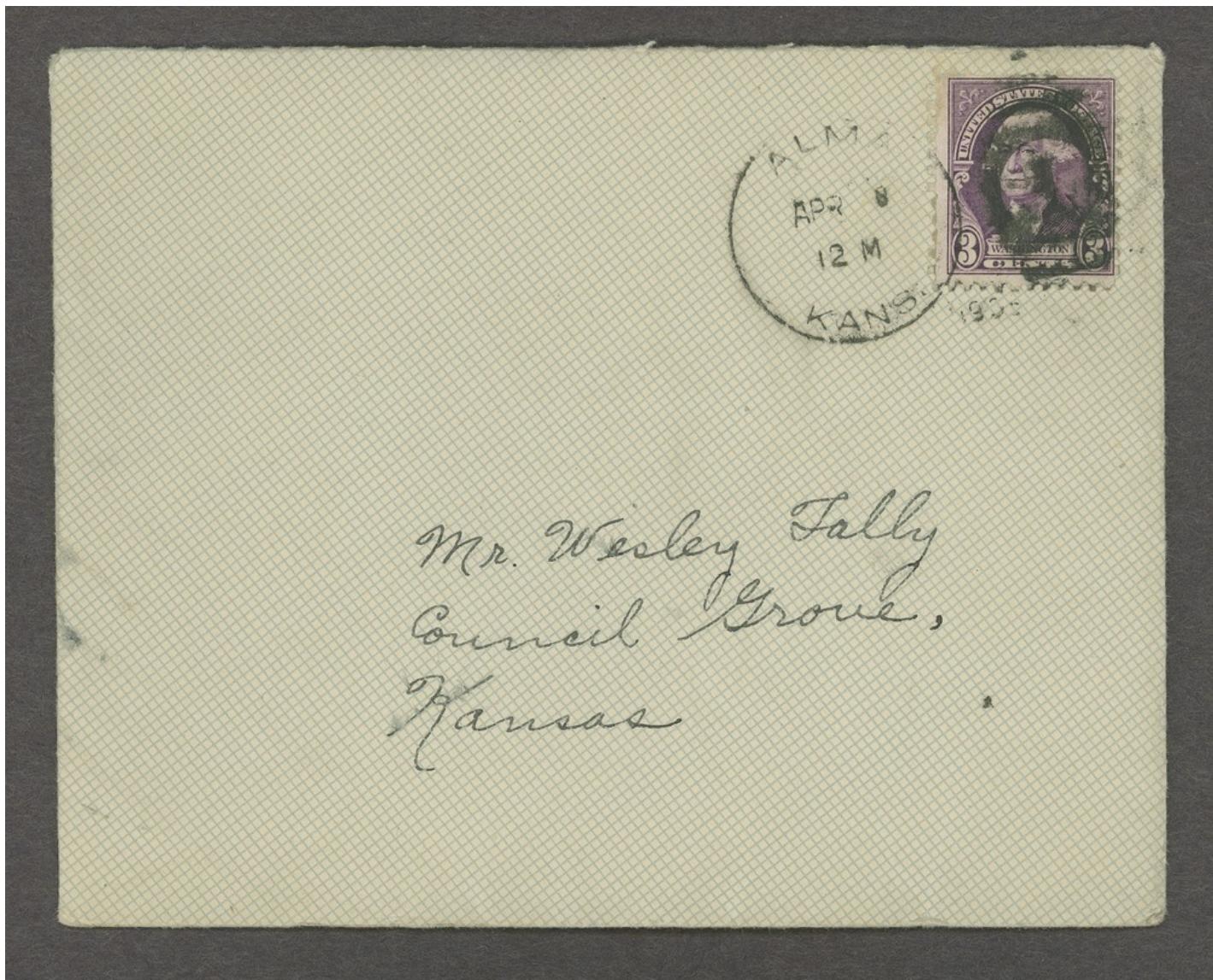
Yours friend,  
Elsie

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# Kansas Memory



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## Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

1628 West St.  
Emporia, Kansas  
April 14, 1985

Dear Wesley,

The dust is still blowing. Uncle Wills brought Ethel to Emporia to night; so I got to come along down. The wind blow dust while we were on the way down so bad at times, where there were fields, that we could hardly see ahead of us.

How did you get home Wednesday night? I guess the dust was plenty bad that day. Lora said she saw you. I ask her what the wages were down there and I was surprised to learn what they were getting. You know I told you I wasn't sure what they got, but I did think they got more. I hope you weren't too disappointed when you found out what they paid. Lora said they said sometime ago that they wanted to hire a lady teacher next year but of course they didn't say what they would do for siva. She said she wished they would like you though, and she would work for you as much as she could.

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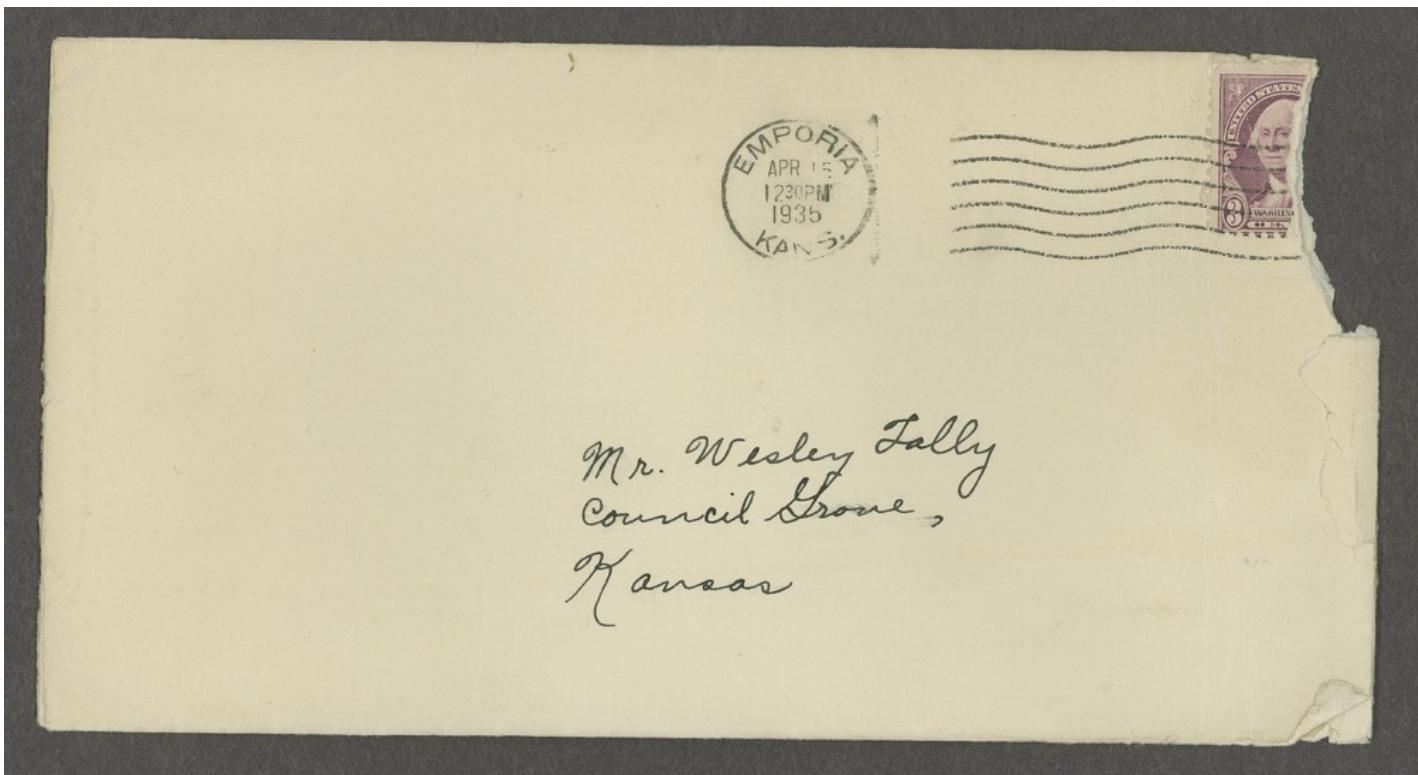
I hope you haven't taken the measles yet or still better I hope you don't get them at all.  
<sup>(Monday)</sup> Mrs. Gregory plans on going to Oba. city to a doctor Friday so I guess I will have to stay here with Jack Jr. Easter. So if you can get down here to Emporia Sunday (Easter) I would be glad to have you. If you can come in the afternoon it will be o. k. too. Mrs. Gregory went to Kansas City this morning and won't be back until wed. Well, I don't know anymore and I have plenty of dust to clean so I must get to work. Maybe I shall see you soon.

your friend,  
Elsie

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Council Grove,

4/16/35

Dearest Elsie:

Received your letter this morning. Glad to know you are able to be back to your work again.

I got home last Wednesday or although it was rather dirty I think the dirt was worse up around Alma than it was here. I guess these storms will continue until we get some rain to seal the dirt.

I did think that they paid more than they do up here

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Lora is teaching but I would gladly take what rather than be without a job. I think I will apply for one or two after schools yet so if I don't get one I may get another and I would like very much to get that one at no absence though.

I am supposed to go to my aunt's place for dinner to-day and it is ten minutes after eleven now so I better quit and write more next time.

I will be down to see you Sunday. If possible I will come in the afternoon. I am going to Sunday school in the morning I think I have been asked to come so I guess I will go.

So long until I see you. Write when you can. I'll try to write again this week.

With "love"

XXXXXX

Wesley

P.S. Just heard that a man committed suicide here last night.

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KANSAS  
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Fort Snelling Minn

4/24/36

Dearest Elsie:

You are probably wondering why I didn't get down to see you Sunday and why you are getting a letter from up here.

Well I am very sorry I didn't get to see you before I came up here. I am in a "C C" camp here. I wanted very much to see you before I left but I just couldn't get a car to come down in. I hope you were not too much disappointed. I know I was in not getting to see you. I don't know for sure just where I will

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finally be located but I will  
let you know just as soon as I  
know. we will be here at the  
Fair for about three days then  
we will be moved somewhere  
for the permanent camp.

We left Council Grove at six  
o'clock Monday morning and  
went to Salina fourth first  
termination. We left Salina  
at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon  
and arrived here at Fair  
Snelling at 8:30 Tuesday evening.  
We took the final exam this  
morning and were given our  
titles. There hasn't been  
much to do yet but I expect  
there will be before long.

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3.

I rather hated to leave  
Kansas but a job is a job anymore  
and I will be back just as soon  
as I can. I think I will be up  
here for six months unless I get  
transferred somewhere else.

I don't think it will make any  
difference on my teaching next  
winter if I get a school off. If I  
don't get a school I don't know  
whether I will stay more than  
the six months or not. I may  
find something better at the  
end of the six months.

Will I will close for now and  
I will let you know just as soon  
as I know my permanent location  
so you can write to me.

Remember "dear" I love you and  
will be ~~ever~~ <sup>constantly</sup> waiting this  
time until I will get to see you.

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"  
again. Be a good girl and take care  
of yourself "farmer"

Lore  
Wesley

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SOCIETY

Cass Lake, Minn.

4/26/35

Dearest Elsie:

Well here I am away up  
here in the big tall woods.  
The bunch I am in arrived  
here at Cass Lake at 8:30 this  
morning. we left 3 a.m.  
I telephoned at 10:30 last night  
and came up here an hour later.  
The camp is about three miles  
from town. I haven't had  
a chance yet to look over the  
camp yet because it is raining.  
It has been raining since  
early yesterday morning and  
is still raining. The camp  
is built right on the edge of

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a large lake and it is among the big trees.  
The trees are all pines and some of them are  
very large. The lake is still frozen over so  
but of course the ice is not strong enough  
to get on but it is still there. It looked  
rather funny to see it because when I left  
Wyoming everything was green and the weather  
was quite warm. It isn't so very cold here  
cold enough to need a fire yet.

We are only about 110 miles from the  
Canadian line so you know it is quite a  
ways north. The fellows who are already  
here say that in another three weeks it will  
be real warm. I think this will be a real  
place to be in the summer time as it does  
not get as hot as it does in Wyoming. I wish  
you could be here too, to see what it is like.  
Maybelle can come up here sometime.

The building I am in has twenty  
light other men in it. There are some  
where around 250 men in the entire camp.  
most of the country on the way up here  
looked much better than in Wyoming  
after we got into Iowa things began to look  
bad.

They have had much more rain  
and so far have had storms like we do  
in Wyoming. They haven't had any of  
the deer here at all.

I think I am going to buy a few  
pines here. To day for dinner we had

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fish, mashed potatoes, spaghetti  
with tomatoes, coffee and cherry  
pie, the food is put out in the  
family style and everyone gets all  
they want.

Well "Dear" I guess I have  
told you about all I know for  
this time I will write again  
soon and let you know how  
I am getting along.

Write when you can because  
I am anxious to hear from you.  
I must write to the folks  
so this is all for now.

Love  
Wesley

no address

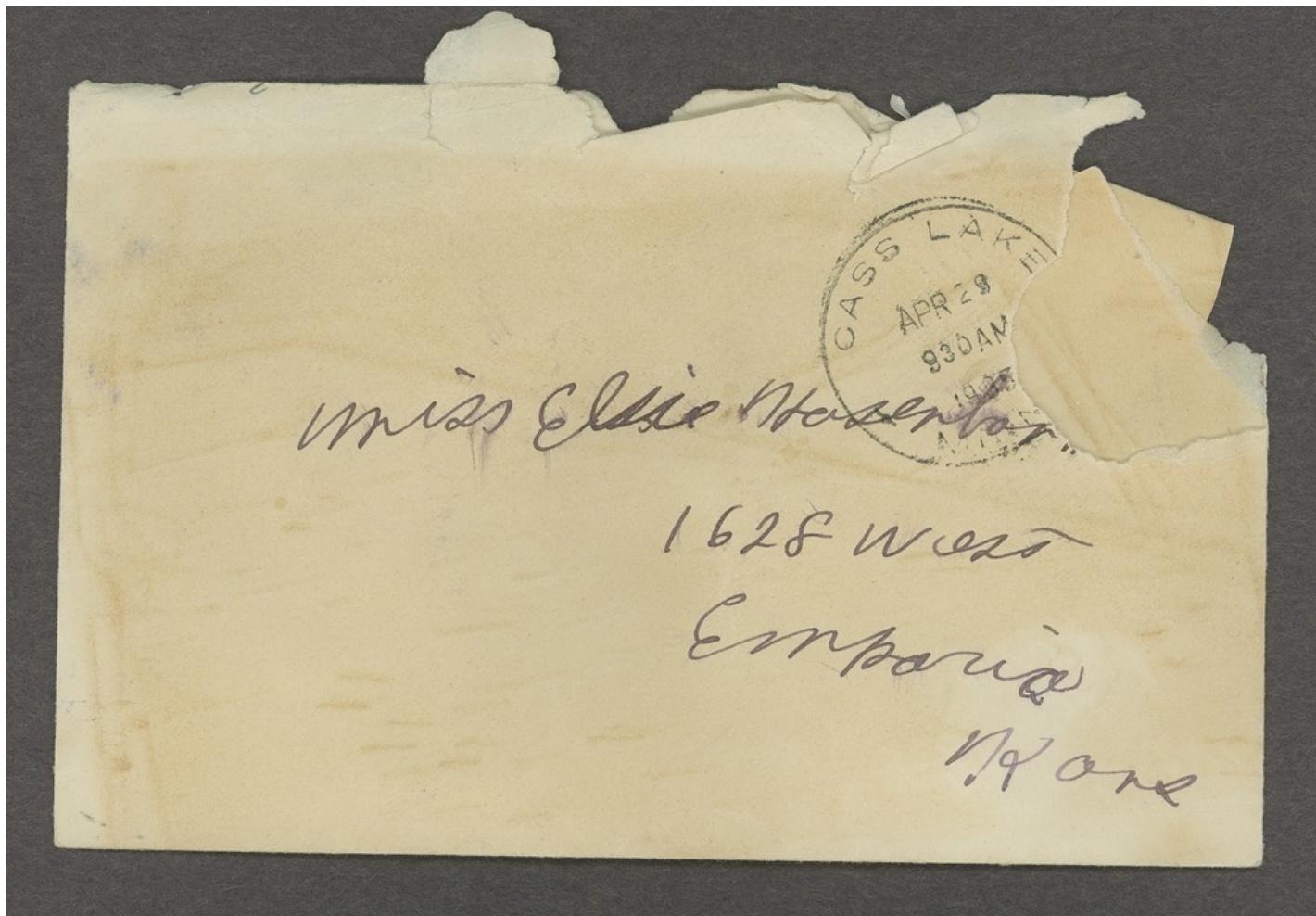
C. C. C. Company 1765  
Cass Lake.  
Minn.

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Wesley and Elsie Hasenbank Tally collection

1628 West St.  
Emporia, Kansas  
April 30, 1935

Dear Wesley,

It is now 8:15 P.M. and I have just finished sewing some curtains for the dining room. I had to stop and make dinner or I would have had them done sooner. I thought I would answer your letters and then go to bed. I received your letter this afternoon. I was glad to know that you were getting along O.K. I was very sorry and disappointed Easter that you couldn't come down, but I am glad it wasn't because you had measles. I really thought that was why you didn't come. Jack Jr. had them Easter, but he went back to school last Friday feeling fine.

We cleaned house all last week and we had just finished Friday when we got another dust storm. The forecast for to-day was more dust,

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but it hasn't come yet and I am glad of it be-  
cause, I think, I have cleaned enough for a  
little while. It is a good thing you don't have  
any dust up there. We washed all the woodwork  
in the house, because it was all light and it  
surely showed the dirt, although it was a real  
job, but it will be easier to keep clean for  
a while now, because we waxed all the floors  
too again.

They had a special price on permanent waves  
at the beauty shop Monday, so I went down and  
had them cut my hair real short and give me  
a permanent of little curls all over my head.  
It only cost me one dollar. I guess you wouldn't  
know me now.

Well, you aren't far from Canada so you can  
go over and see the Flintuplets in some of your  
spare time. Ha!

I am glad to hear that you have plenty to  
eat, because you need plenty of food when  
you work hard.

I hope that if any of the bunch take to  
gambling and drinking, that you will not.  
Please, do as the like in a song goes. "Stay  
as sweet as you are, dear, and don't let any-  
thing change you."

Remember I didn't tell you to go jump in  
the Lake, so be very careful and don't fall into  
the Lake either. Ha!

Well, it would be nice if you did get  
a school for next fall, because I guess it  
gets plenty cold up there in the winter,  
and if you got a school you would be back  
in good old Kansas again. I do think  
you have a swell place for this summer  
and I think you will like it there. You  
are getting a chance to see different states  
with your job, which is worth something

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to you too. I suppose if you did get a school you could come back and teach, couldn't you? Lora has her school promised to her, with a five dollar raise, so she is very happy about that. It won't belong now until Alvin will be going home and Lora will be coming down here. Alvin is going to the Jr. Senior Ball Friday and he has to have a formal suit so he has been looking all over trying to rent one. He found a good one and the boy said could have it and then Monday he found he needed it himself, because the orchestra was going to play someplace Fri.

Well, I don't know enough to start writing another page, so I think I will close for this time. I hope I shall hear from you again soon. Don't work too hard. I hope the lake and trees are beautiful. Well, it is time to stop, because I have come to the stop sign your good friend,

Elsie